



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. ATTORNEY SEEKS TO DETAIN ST. JOSEPH FELON ARRESTED WITH MACHINE GUN, SAWED-OFF SHOTGUN

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced his intent to detain without bond a St. Joseph, Mo., felon who was found in possession of four firearms following his indictment by a federal grand jury.

Sean K. Owens, 39, of St. Joseph, Mo., who remains in federal custody pending his arraignment on March 9, 2005, had an initial appearance before U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert E. Larsen this afternoon. In a motion for detention that was filed today, Graves urged the court to detain **Owens** in federal custody without bond. Noting that Owens has been charged with a crime of violence, the motion argues that there are no conditions which the court could place on the defendant's release which would reasonably assure his appearance in court and the safety of the community.

On Dec. 15, 2004, **Owens** was charged in a federal indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Owens was arrested on the indictment on March 3, 2005. At the time of his arrest, **Owens** was again found in possession of firearms, including a fully automatic AR-15 machine gun, a sawed-off shotgun with a barrel length of less than 18 inches, a .308-caliber semi-automatic assault rifle and a Colt .45-caliber semi-automatic pistol.

Owens was indicted for being a felon in possession of a Mossberg 12-gauge shotgun on Sept. 6, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Owens** has a 1998 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon and a 2000 criminal felony conviction for driving while intoxicated, both in Buchanan County, Mo.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel M. Nelson. It was

investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow